

eighteen female high school students on completing the BAE Systems Women in Technology Program, which encourages young women to consider pursuing careers in technology. As a country we need more programs like this to encourage our young women to pursue their interests and become future leaders, and to discourage them from thinking that certain careers are strictly for men.

In New Hampshire, women make up half of the state's population and about a quarter of our businesses are owned by women. It is clear that the success of women in business is vitally important to New Hampshire's future, and the same can be said for the rest of our country. On International Women's Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize not just the progress we have made, but also how much work remains to be done. As a country we must promote the success of women.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and the women who are continuing the fight to ensure there is equal opportunity for women in the present and future.

THE FIRST AND FINEST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Port of Houston Authority for successfully completing its certification process for International Organization for Standardization 14001 Environmental Management Systems. This tri-annual process certifies the ports' Central Maintenance facility and the Bayport and Barbours Cut container terminals.

International Organization for Standardization 14001 certification is one of the hardest to achieve in the environmental industry. Of the 360 seaports in the United States, only 10 are certified. This also marks the fifth consecutive successful certification for the Port of Houston Authority. In 2002, it became the first port in the United States to achieve ISO 14001 status.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Port of Houston Authority for receiving this critical certification. The Port of Houston is an important asset for Houston, Texas and the nation. Best wishes on your continued success.

WELCOMING THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO WASHINGTON

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, to Washington. Speaker Chung—a neurosurgeon by training—is a distinguished member of the National Assembly, having served five consecutive terms since 1996. Last year, in his capacity as President of the Korea-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Council, he led a delegation and paid a

visit to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where I hosted a legislative exchange. I'm honored to welcome him back to Washington and in his new capacity as Speaker.

For over 60 years, the U.S.-South Korea relationship has been a linchpin of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2013, I welcomed President Park Geun-hye, the Republic of Korea's first female president, to Southern California where she addressed the Korean-American community to discuss the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean alliance. As a former Chairman of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, I have been proud to help enhance the alliance, including by upgrading Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to NATO+4, passing the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and securing an extension of the U.S.-Korea Civilian Nuclear Energy Agreement.

As North Korea continues to threaten the United States and our close allies with its nuclear, missile, and now cyber capabilities, I introduced legislation, together with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, to step up the targeting of those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting this brutal and dangerous regime. By shutting down North Korea's illicit activities, we deprive the Kim regime of the money it needs to pay the generals and to conduct nuclear weapons research. I appreciate that humanitarian groups around the world are strongly supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening their combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula. Together, we are working toward a shared goal of a Korean Peninsula that is free of nuclear weapons and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and market principles and as articulated in President Park's Dresden address last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to welcome my friend, Speaker Chung Ui-Hwa, to Washington and to the Congress. We are at critical juncture in the U.S.-Korea alliance, but our relationship has never been better. I look forward to working with Speaker Chung on the issues of mutual concern. I further urge my colleagues to do the same and to offer their own expressions of best wishes and support.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 23rd anniversary of a terrible event in the history of Azerbaijan: the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. That was before Armenian armed forces descended on the town on February 26, 1992, killing over 600 people—including 106 women and 83 children. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost one of their parents, and 25 children lost

both parents. At least 8 families were completely wiped out.

More than two decades after a ceasefire went into effect, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remains occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain displaced from their homes. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works towards a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan is the only country that borders both Russia and Iran, and yet Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies in security and energy matters. This has included: enforcing sanctions against Iran; providing troops that served shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit for 40 percent of all non-lethal equipment used by NATO forces in Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy that will provide Europe with an alternative source to Russian energy; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil.

I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the devastation of Khojaly twenty-three years ago. As Azerbaijanis around the world recall this massacre and mourn the loss of loved ones, let us remember our support of peaceful efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reforms that promote stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

HONORING BMO HARRIS BANK

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in congratulating BMO Harris Bank as it is honored at the 39th Annual Salute to Accomplishment Dinner.

For over a century, BMO Harris Bank has invested in Joliet, where it currently has five branches employing 61 people. Partnering with community organizations and local governments, BMO Harris Bank has worked on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community including investing in health care research and community service projects.

Additionally, many BMO Harris Bank employees serve on boards and committees, and are members of various local non-profit organizations, including the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, the Greater Joliet Area YMCA, the Will County Council on Economic Development, and the Joliet Park District.

Again, I would like to congratulate BMO Harris Bank and thank its employees for being a driving force of change in our community.